

raised in New York City and following the September 11th attacks he, like so many patriots, enlisted in the Marine Corps in November of 2001.

Mike's operational assignments include Operations Chief and Senior Enlisted Leader for the Commander of the Special Operations Command and Control Element in Africa. He also deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan on numerous occasions between 2003 and 2017 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve. As a Critical Skills Operator, or Marine Raider, Mike has been stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC; Camp Pendleton, CA; and Washington, D.C. and has traveled to over 30 countries. He served as the Chief instructor of an advanced technical operations course at the Marine Raider Training Center and is a graduate of the USMC Congressional Fellowship program; USMC Combatant Diver Course; USMC Amphibious Reconnaissance Course; USMC Scout Sniper Course; U.S. Army Airborne Course; U.S. Army Special Forces Military Freefall; and the U.S. Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course.

Mike graduated Summa Cum Laude from Norwich University's Bachelor of Science in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis program. He earned a master's degree in Public Administration and Policy from American University and a graduate certificate in Legislative Studies from Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute in Washington, D.C. He also completed the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education II and earned the Michael A. Monsoor Leadership Award from the Joint Special Operations Senior Enlisted Advisors Course. Mike's brave actions on the battlefield earned him a number of awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal (Combat), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 3 Combat Action Ribbons, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 7 Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, and 6 Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

With his robust, boots-on-the-ground experience serving our nation around the globe, I am honored now to have Mike as a member of my staff. Prior to serving as my national security advisor, Mike was the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense of Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism and the Appropriations Liaison to the Assistant Secretary of Defense from Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict in the Department of Defense, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Mike for his exemplary service in the United States Marine Corps.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF WINTER THE DOLPHIN

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passing of Winter the Dolphin, in celebration of her extraordinary life, and in honor of her home and family at Clearwater Marine Aquarium in my district.

After being rescued from a crab trap in December 2005, two-month-old Winter lost her tail and had to adapt to life without it.

But Winter didn't just survive. She thrived. And with a new prosthetic tail, her resilience inspired millions around the world—including many wounded and disabled veterans.

Winter's story became the inspiration for the movies *Dolphin Tale* and *Dolphin Tale 2*. And over her life, Winter provided hope to all who met her, and brought awareness to the plight of marine mammals.

Winter's legacy is one of perseverance, courage, and environmental stewardship.

HONORING THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 155th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Franklin which has been a continuing source of inspiration for the community of Franklin, Virginia. The church was founded in 1866, a year after slavery was abolished in the United States. First Baptist Church of Franklin stands tall as the oldest organization of continuous existence in Franklin.

The beginnings of First Baptist Church of Franklin were one of hardship at the initial phase of the Reconstruction era. A young man of faith named Joseph Gregory was recommended to be a licensed preacher. Reverend Gregory was assigned a post to give the message of Christ to the African American members of this and other churches.

Through the following months, he started preaching in the little village of Franklin. He took initiative and organized the Cool Spring Baptist Church. The church started in a brush arbor near the Black Water River, which was donated by Tom Barrett, one of the church's members. Unfortunately, the brush arbor burned down but this did not stop the continuous work of the congregants. Under the leadership of the founding pastor, the members rebuilt and continued serving their community. Following the leadership of Reverend Gregory, First Baptist Church of Franklin has had a diverse succession of faithful servants, such as Reverend Guy Powell, Reverend M.E. Gerst, Dr. W.R. Ashburn, Reverend S.W. Timms, Reverend W.E. Sanderlin, Dr. M.C. Allen, Reverend Grover C. Lassiter, Reverend Samuel Franklyn Daly, Reverend Henry Blunt, Reverend Dr. Paige Chargois, Reverend Dr. D.S. Riddick, II and the church's current pastor, Reverend Marcus D. Jennings.

First Baptist Church of Franklin is still a pillar of the community. The organization's ministries bring essential services to the City of Franklin and its citizens. In these trying times, First Baptist Church of Franklin has shown resiliency and remains a source of inspiration for its congregants.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the members and leaders of First Baptist Church of Franklin for their contributions to the City of Franklin for the last 155 years. The ongoing commitment to preach the gospel, give the good news and to extend faith is reflected in the rich history of the church. I commend pastor Marcus Jennings for his vision and service to his congregation, the community of Franklin, and the members of the congregation who

all make a community of faith possible. I wish the church many more years of growth and prosperity.

REMEMBERING NUNZIO MERLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Nunzio Merlo, who passed away on Friday, October 17, 2021 at the age of 80.

He was born September 14, 1941 in Gioiosa Marea Sicily, Italy the son of Giuseppe and Tindara Stancampiano-Pizzo Merlo. He grew up in the mountains of Sicily with his three sisters and three brothers, his father (a sheep farmer and cheese maker) and his mother (a homemaker). Nunzio's time as a young man in Sicily was spent working as a tree trimmer and a taxi driver, and he enjoyed singing and playing guitar. He met the love of his life, Maria, in Gioiosa Marea when he was nineteen and she was seventeen. They married on August 12, 1962.

On November 13, 1965 Nunzio immigrated to America with his wife and two-year-old son to build a new life. He was always a hard worker and often worked two jobs. Nunzio was employed at National Gypsum, the same company my grandfather Rizzzi worked for, General Motors Lordstown, Tauro Brother's Trucking, and the U.S. Postal Service. He was also a self-employed truck driver. He retired after 17 years working for the City of Niles Water Department in 2015.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles, where he could always be found volunteering at the church festivals and Lenten fish dinners. It wasn't an event at Mt. Carmel unless Nunzio was working. He was a member of the Sons of Italy, Niles Democratic Club, Niles Knights of Columbus Council 1681, and he played in several bocce leagues.

Nunzio's dedication to family was at the heart of everything he did. He especially enjoyed cooking Sunday dinners for his family. Nunzio enjoyed gardening and playing Italian cards with family and friends and attending his grandchildren's extracurricular activities and events. His kind heart, willingness to help others and his infectious smile will live in the memories of family and friends forever. I can truly say, Madam Speaker, I would not be in Congress today if it wasn't for Nunzio Merlo and his family. They launched my career and I will forever be grateful.

He will be sadly missed by his wife of 59 years, Maria Calabrese Merlo, his father-in-law Tindaro Calabrese of Niles, four sons: Joseph Merlo and his wife Louise of Niles, Robert Merlo and his wife Jamie of Niles, Tino Merlo and his wife Michelle of Howland, and Giovanna Merlo and his wife Monica of Niles, two sisters: Maria Merlo of Gioiosa Marea Sicily Italy, and Rosa Merlo of Cefalu, Sicily, ten grandchildren: Giuseppe Merlo (Sarah Marlinski), Nicolette Merlo, Alenna Merlo, Nunzio Merlo, Roberto Merlo, Isabella Merlo, Gianna Merlo, Tino Merlo, Emma Merlo, and Giovanna Merlo. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins in the U.S. and Sicily.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his mother-in-law Maria Tindara Calabrese, three brothers: Salvatore Merlo, Vincenzo Merlo, and Domenico Merlo, and a sister Giovanna Merlo.

**WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DAY 2021**

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Women's Entrepreneurship Day which is celebrated around the world each year on November 19th.

Women-owned U.S. firms make up nearly 20 percent of all firms that employ people and this number is growing. There are nearly 13 million women-owned firms and they employ close to 10 million people. As a testament to their success, women-owned firms reported revenues of nearly \$1.9 trillion. This is truly astounding and shows you how vital women are to the economy. I applaud these women entrepreneurs and their economically vital businesses.

I also applaud Wendy Diamond, who has personally spearheaded the Women's Entrepreneurship Day movement. Since her campaign launched in 2013, her Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization has annually funded one thousand impoverished women with microloans to start their entrepreneurial journey in Nicaragua, India and Africa, hosted a nationwide entrepreneurship training program for 60,000 female college students and early-stage entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia, initiated and funded the premiere Women's Disability Cohort Pitch Competition, a visionary program that raises funding opportunities for women marginalized by their disabilities in partnership with 2Gether International, provided financial literacy education to one thousand rural women in the Philippines, and partnered with a Uruguayan university to offer scholarships to young women.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day is now celebrated in 144 countries and 65 universities and colleges internationally, with numerous global ambassadors. The Women's Entrepreneurship Day mission is to empower the nearly four billion women worldwide to be catalysts of change and uplift the over 250 million girls living in poverty around the world.

As in past years, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards recognizes, and honors distinguished women who are leaders and innovators across multiple categories with inspiring accomplishments. This year's honorees include:

Cathie Wood, Founder and CEO of ARK Investment Management, LLC—Financial Pioneer Award

Jeni Britton Bauer, CEO/Founder Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams—Culinary Pioneer Award
Judith Heumann, International Disability Rights Advocate, The Heumann Perspective—Human Rights Pioneer Award

Mona Scott-Young, CEO of Monami Productions—Entertainment Pioneer Award

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, 57th & first female Governor of New York State—Government Pioneer Award

Nadja Swarovski, Chair and Founder of Atelier Swarovski and Chair of Swarovski Foundation—Fashion Pioneer Award

Dawn Dickson-Akpoghe, CEO and Founder of PopCom—Technology Pioneer Award

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to recognize these remarkable role models, and to celebrate Women's Entrepreneurship Day this year and every year moving forward.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JACOB
DEITER AND HIS VETERANS ME-
MORIAL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacob Deiter, an outstanding young man who dedicated his Eagle Scout project to our nation's veterans. Jacob went above and beyond to bring a veterans' memorial to his hometown of Van Buren, Ohio. His hard work and dedication are truly deserving of high praise.

Jacob is a 17-year-old senior at Van Buren High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 313. In order to complete his Eagle Scout project, he spent the last two years planning and organizing the establishment of a memorial in the town square to honor the area's veterans.

Since 1775, millions of Americans have served in the United States Armed Forces. Every battle has left an impact on our nation's veterans and their families. It is important to recognize the sacrifices they made for our country. This memorial includes a sidewalk with engraved bricks honoring area veterans as well as a granite memorial stone. There are also seven flag poles, one for each branch of service along with the United States and POW flags.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacob Deiter for the completion of this memorial for the veterans of Van Buren. He has shown outstanding leadership in his community and is most worthy of this recognition. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Jacob all the best in his future endeavors.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
LORRAINE SULLIVAN FROM THE
DEARBORN MICHIGAN SOCIAL
SECURITY OFFICE**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lorraine Sullivan on the occasion of her retirement from the Dearborn, Michigan Social Security Office after over thirty-seven years of service to the Social Security Administration. Her significant contributions in service of our community are worthy of commendation.

Mrs. Sullivan got her start at the Social Security Administration as a Stay in School participant. She later held many titles as she worked her way up the ranks, serving as Development Claims Clerk, Claims Technical Expert, Operations Supervisor and now, District Manager of the Dearborn Field Office. The recipient of two Regional Commission Citations, her excellence in service is evident through her work as a leader in the office. Dedicated to improving the conditions of the workplace, she is an advocate for diversity and inclusion within her office and celebrates the diversity of her staff, encouraging them to present developmental trainings on various topics.

Known by others for her can-do attitude and willingness to help others, her staff describes her as a fair, straightforward, and empathic manager. Always looking for a way to uplift her staff, she has encouraged and mentored many team members who have gone on to become leaders in their own right. Outside of work, she enjoys travelling, dancing, and spending time with her loving family, including her granddaughter Carlaheya. Mrs. Sullivan and her husband Carl Sullivan have two sons, Theo and Carl. An active member of Mount Olive Baptist Church—the church where she and Carl married twenty-three years ago, she is an enthusiastic volunteer and member of the choir.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lorraine Sullivan for her dedicated service to the Dearborn Michigan Social Security Office. We are grateful for her years spent serving countless Michiganders and her legacy will live on through the numerous staff members that she has mentored. I join with Lorraine's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

FTC INVESTIGATING BIG OIL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of President Biden's call for the FTC to investigate the world's largest oil companies that appear to be engaging in egregious price manipulation of oil and gasoline prices.

In August, Big Oil started substantially reducing production—a bizarre move as our economy was surging forward after the pandemic downturn.

At a time when oil production costs are going down, and unprocessed gasoline awaits distilling, Big Oil is driving prices up—and reaping the benefits. The two biggest companies are on pace to double their income since 2019. This is outrageous.

It appears corporate fat cats are padding their own wallets at the expense of our national wellbeing. Enough is enough.

The FTC should take a deep dive into Big Oil—and put a stop to any nefarious behavior that is harming hardworking Americans.

I applaud President Biden's call for action—and hope to see enforcement soon.